

REMARKS

Claims 2, 3, 5-8, 15, 18, 21-23 and 25-27 are pending in the present application. Claims 2, 3, 7 and 15 have been amended. Claims 4, 19, 20 and 24 have been canceled. Claims 5, 6, 21-23 and 25-27 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Telephone Interview

Applicant acknowledges the courtesy extended by Examiner Hoang during the telephone interview conducted on October 27, 2008. During the telephone interview, the Examiner acknowledged that independent claims 2, 3 and 7 would be allowable if amended to include the features of respective dependent claims 4, 20 and 24. The Examiner also acknowledged that claim 15 would be allowable if amended to include features similar to claim 4. The Examiner acknowledged that the corresponding amendments would be entered and would place the application in condition for allowance. The Examiner also requested filing of a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) to ensure entry and consideration of the Amendment.

Claim Objections

Claim 15 has been objected to in view of the informality as listed on page 2 of the current Office Action dated July 25, 2008. Claim 15 has been corrected as requested. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to withdraw the objection.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 15, 18, 23 and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Aoki et al. reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,033,953) in view of the Lu reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,679,596).

Although Applicant does not necessarily agree that this rejection is proper, claims 2, 3, 7 and 15 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner in the above noted telephone interview, to advance prosecution of this application. In view of the Examiner's acknowledgment of allowable subject matter during the telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge that claims 2, 3, 5-8, 15, 18, 21-23 and 25-27 are allowed.

Conclusion

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the corresponding rejection, and to pass the claims of the present application to issue, for at least the above reasons.

In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, please contact Andrew J. Telesz, Jr. (Reg. No. 33,581) at (571) 283-0720 in the Washington, D.C. area, to discuss these matters.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment for any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0238.

Respectfully submitted,

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